

The Cumberland Valley Quarterly Newsletter

Information of Interest in the Cumberland Valley Region

January, February, March, 2002

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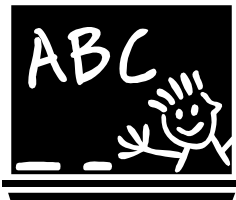
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

LAUREL COUNTY

Sherry Crawford reports that the Laurel Co. South Protection and Permanency Team is working with local schools (Cold Hill Elementary, Cornerstone Christian School, Hunter Hills Elementary, Keavy Elementary, London Elementary, and Sublimity Elementary) to help promote awareness of child abuse. Each class will build a paper chain with construction paper. Each link will be sold within the classroom for ten cents. This will continue for approximately two weeks (May 6 through May 20, 2002). The classroom teachers will connect the links, and then, a school official will connect all the individual chains and display it within the school. Once the chains are on display, someone from P & P will visit the schools and take pictures. (NOTE: SELLING LINKS WITHIN EACH CLASSROOM IS OPTIONAL.)

This is a great way to promote awareness of child abuse while at the same time giving the school children an opportunity to be creative. If you would like more information about this, contact Sherry Crawford at (606) 878-6608.

The London City Police Department conducted a fingerprinting for children at the Bennett Center on April 16, 2002. This was scheduled to be an all day event. The Parents Anonymous Group made Fly Swatters to "Swat out Child Abuse" as fundraiser. The Pittsburg Head Start Program is distributing blue ribbons.



WHITLEY

The Whitley Co. Protection and Permanency Office, along with the Whitley County Health Department, the Social Work Department of Cumberland College, and all the area schools planned a walk that took place on March 26. The

walk started at Boswell Park on the Cumberland College Campus and ended at the courthouse in downtown Williamsburg. There was a contest during which students paid ten cents for a link to make a chain that was carried during the walk and later wrapped around the courthouse. The money raised stays with the appropriate school, but the school that raised the most money was given a trophy.

On the evening of April 16, there was a convocation service held at Cumberland College in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Michelle Puckett from Winchester was scheduled to speak. Puckett's eleven-month old son Bryan died after being left inside his babysitter's car while she shopped. In remembrance of all the children who have died from child abuse or neglect, and to show support for children who are suffering right now, a candle light ceremony was scheduled following the program.

On April 18, a representative from the Protection and Permanency Office will speak at the Whitley County Library in Williamsburg.

On April 20, at Briar Creek Park in Williamsburg, the Social Work Department will be having a community picnic for the children and the community. There will be various activities during the picnic such as performers, games for the children, and music. The students will be doing the cooking outdoors, and there may be some special performers on that day.

The Family Support Office is distributing information that explains how the Blue Ribbon Campaign began.

KNOX

The Knox County P & P Office, in conjunction with the Victims' Advocate Office, will be doing news broadcasts on the local radio station. They will also be organizing a speech to be held at the Courthouse Square (date uncertain), and will be distributing blue ribbons. There will be a Proclamation signed designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Knox County.

Knox Co. Family Support Office has had a senior from Knox Central High School—Meghann Gaunt—volunteer her support in distributing information within Knox Co. regarding Child Abuse Prevention. Meghann has also volunteered to contribute all the materials consisting of blue copy paper and blue ribbon to assemble with printed information. The Knox Co. Family Support staff welcome

her dedication, enthusiasm, and energy as well as her contributions for this cause.

JACKSON

There will be a Proclamation signing designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month for Jackson County with the

County Judge Executive. Head Start and Resource Centers are assisting in distributing blue ribbons and promoting Child Abuse Prevention Month in all the area schools. Elaine Madden, FSOS of the Jackson County Office, will be showing "What Tadoo" at the Head Start Centers during April.

CLAY

The Clay County Protection and Permanency Office will be participating in the local health fair, providing information pertaining to Child Abuse Prevention.

ROCKCASTLE

An add is run in the paper to nominate people for the Betty Lewis Children's Service Award, a community service award based on people helping keep the families and children safe. The Betty Lewis Children's Service Award is in honor of Betty Lewis, a lady who lived in Rockcastle Co., and was a Social Worker. Betty worked for Comp. Care and helped to get FRYSC started in Rockcastle. Betty died of cancer in the early 90's. She was also instrumental in several other community programs and services including candy striper program, literacy programs, girl scouts, and church activities.

The Family Support Office is preparing a bulletin board to display in the reception area that includes poetry, stories, and pictures. They are also planning to decorate the front window to promote community awareness of Child Abuse Awareness Month.

BELL

The Middlesboro Daily News is planning to do an informative, four-part series during the month of April showcasing the Protection and Permanency Offices, and explaining to the public how to report child abuse. P & P Staff will be going to the local schools to distribute information and Blue Ribbons.

HARLAN

The Harlan County Judge Executive has declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. And of course, Blue Ribbons will be plentiful in Harlan Co.

SECRETARIAL CQI MEETINGS

From Alison Schaefer on behalf of the secretaries of Cumberland Valley...

Cumberland Valley Region has now reinstated the secretaries' quarterly meetings as CQI Meetings. The Planning Council would like to thank the Regional Staff for allowing them to begin the CQI Meetings and giving them a voice within the Region. The first meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2002. We know that if you get that many secretaries in one room there will be many ideas and suggestions shared. However, we are hoping that it will be one at a time!!!

Along with CQI, the secretaries are hoping to have training in many subjects, some of which have been suggested as follows:

- New Evaluation Training
- Time Management
- Co-worker Relationships and Office Courtesy
- Advanced Telephone Etiquette
- Business English
- Archive Training
- Word and Excel Training
- Business Dress
- Taking Meeting Notes
- Clinical P & P Subjects

We will try to incorporate these within the meetings.

The secretaries in Cumberland Valley love to get together and share ideas and suggestions and we look forward to getting reacquainted in June. THANKS AGAIN TO REGIONAL STAFF FOR ALLOWING US TO HAVE THESE CQI MEETINGS.

HAVE YOU CALLED THE PERMANENCY TEAM

The newly restructured Permanency Team in Cumberland Valley, under the guidance of their new supervisor, Andrea Burns, will be travelling to the Protection and Permanency offices and reviewing cases for permanency.

The Regional Staff have been looking at cases in which the children have been in care more than fifteen months, and the Permanency Team is trying to work with these cases and move the children toward TPR and adoption or permanent custody.

The adoption goal for Cumberland Valley for this year is 26, so please help the Permanency Team and R & C and look at your own cases. Let's move these children toward permanency as soon as we possibly can. Call Andrea Burns, Alison Schaefer, Terry Timberlake, Karen Smith, Connie Parrett or Janice Coffey if you have a case you need to have reviewed.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE **FROM PEGGY WOODS, SRAA**

During the quarterly meeting, the Regional CQI Team recognized Cumberland Valley's Family Support Section for their continued excellence in the following areas:

- Timely work
- Case Reviews in excess of the quota
- No overtime or comp time
- Time and accuracy of work based upon Quality Control Reviews.

A note from Peggy:

Thank You Family Support!

I would like to recognize Beverly Jones, the Administrative Secretary for Family Support. Beverly does an outstanding job in supporting staff, monitoring all assignments and compilation of reports and statistics.

Please allow me to also recognize Mitch Goodin and Kim Short who are Cumberland Valley's Program Specialists for Family Support. Kim and Mitch do an outstanding job in assuring the accuracy rate of Family Support. Both specialists go far beyond the call of duty to assure that staff are well informed of policy and procedure.

These three employees have proven themselves to be indispensable to the goals and outcomes of Cumberland Valley Region's Family Support team. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to them for their conscientious hard work.

I would like to recognize the Knox County staff and the Corbin staff who had no errors cited by Quality Control for previous QC reporting period October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001. Please allow me to extend my congratulations and heart felt appreciation for a job well done.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the Family Support Staff who do a great job in serving our customers in a timely, accurate and courteous manner. I am very proud of their compassion and standards of excellence. Thank You Cumberland Valley Family Support! You're the Greatest!

CUMBERLAND VALLEY IS THE ONLY REGION IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY WHO HAS ZERO PAST DUE CLAIMS IN THE LOCAL OFFICES!!!

**Congratulations
Dave Hampton!**

**Thank you,
Mike Dunn,
for your
help!**

CQI CORNER

By Lynn Grigsby
CQI Specialist
Cumberland Valley



It seems Cumberland Valley just keeps hitting the target with Continuous Quality Improvement!!!!

The Regional CQI Team would like to recognize Child Support, Family Support and Protection and Permanency, for the wonderful part each of you play in the Quality of Services you provide to our Children and Families.

CQI Housekeeping:

Remember the process change for eliminating the County CQI quarterly team meetings began on April 9, 2002.

Also, the new Peer Review Process for P & P began with the April 3, 2002 Random Case Listing.

Coming soon to your High Performance CQI Team....

Four Easy Steps to a Well-Run CQI Meeting:

- ⇒ The importance of Advanced Planning
- ⇒ Actually Conducting the meeting
- ⇒ The importance of Minutes
- ⇒ The importance of Meeting Follow-up

Ask yourself while attending a CQI meeting, "Is my team abiding by the EAL Basic Principles and is my team using EAL Ground Rules?"

**“CHILD LIKE” A poem written by
George McKinsey Robinson
(written while attending a teaching
parenting workshop)**



CHILD LIKE

I'm just a little child, you see
And you're so big and strong.
I hate it when you yell at me,
And point your finger long.

I would, I could, I know I should,
I'm good, I wish you knew.
That in my little learning heart,
I yearn to be like you.

But I'm just a little child, you see,
And you're so hard to reach.
Come down and meet me eye to eye,
And talk to me; don't preach.

Within the space of face to face
My hope and courage soar.
I'm just a little child you see
Who now knows I'll be more.



A TRUE TALENT IN CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Do you know that we have a true talent among us? Virgil Bowlin's first album, "God Lifted Me Out", was released in March of this year!

Virgil is a Family Support Worker in Clay Co. When he is not working or spending time with his wife and two sons, he can often be found playing, composing, or thinking about

music. (This story continues on the next column, on this same page. Scroll up if you are reading on line!)

Virgil comes from a musical family. His father was once a professional performing musician and his mother is currently a music teacher in the Whitley Co. School system. Virgil's only brother is also a talented musician. This combination makes up a mostly gospel group, The Bowlin Family. The Bowlin Family has traveled the eastern region of the United States since Virgil was about 8 years old. The group was mostly inactive during the period of time Virgil was away at college (music degree), but now are actively traveling and performing again.

Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers (Bluegrass and Bluegrass Gospel) hired Virgil in June of 1997. Virgil worked with Mr. Sparks until August of 1999 when the desire to spend more time at home with his wife and first son made him give up life on the road.

Virgil still has fond memories of this time in his life. He was able to see many parts of the country and has been involved in many memorable concerts including Washington D.C. at Washington Memorial on July 4th, 1998, and Ryman Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee. Virgil can still sometimes be heard to sing and play a good, clean secular song but his preferred genre is Gospel music.

Virgil has a contract with a small record label named Agape Records and as stated earlier, his first album was released in March. The album is titled "God Lifted Me Out". Virgil wrote most of the songs on the album. The album is available on CD and cassette through Virgil personally and also at some music and/or Christian Book Stores.

**JACKSON COUNTY FEATURED IN
THE CFS FOCUS**

Click on this link to see the Jackson Co. CFS story:

<http://cfc.state.ky.us/cfsnews/focus.htm>

THE FLOOD OF 2002

When asked to provide some information for this newsletter, Carla Barrett of the Harlan Co. Family Support Office suggested that we include something about the recent flooding. This is such a major topic that we could devote an entire issue of the newsletter to this alone.

Carla reports that many agencies have come into Harlan to assist the flood victims. The Red Cross has done an enormous amount of work. Christ's Hands, a homeless shelter, opened up their doors to those in need. They

provided shelter, food and cleaning supplies. The International Association of Lions Clubs issued a \$10,000 emergency relief grant for flood victims in Harlan. Many religious organizations have contributed. Carla says that the support has been remarkable.

If anyone else wants to share information relating to the flooding, maybe even some stories that you would like to share with the rest of us, please send to me (Connie York).

Thanks to everyone who contributed information for this issue of the Cumberland Valley Quarterly Newsletter!!! Let's start now for the next time. Please e-mail or phone me with news, comments and suggestions.

Thanks again,

Connie York, Fiscal Manager
Cumberland Valley Region